

SOS-TORTURE BURUNDI REPORT N° 357 PUBLISHED ON 15 OCTOBER 2022

This report by SOS-Torture Burundi covers the period from 8 to 15 October 2022 concerning cases of human rights violations in Burundi.

At least three (3) people were murdered during this period in different parts of the country.

1. Violations of the right to life

- On Saturday 8 October 2022, at around 12 noon, the lifeless body of a retired policeman, Melchior Buso, from the Kivumu zone of the commune of Mugamba, in Bururi province (southern Burundi), was discovered near a police position located in the capital of the Kivumu zone.

According to local sources, his body had blood in its mouth and nose, indicating that he had been murdered the previous day. Melchior Buso had disappeared the day before when he was returning from the trading centre on Gashishima hill, some 200 metres from the same police position in the Kivumu zone. His family members alerted the local police directly after they noticed that the retired PNB (Burundi National Police) officer had not returned to his home. However, the policeman in charge of this police position showed indifference, which increased the suspicions of this family that Melchior Manirakiza would have been murdered by police agents in this locality. As a result, the family of the victim refuses to proceed with his burial until a thorough and independent investigation has determined the circumstances and identified the perpetrators of his assassination. The victim's body is lying in the morgue of Rutovu hospital awaiting the outcome of the investigation.

SOS-Torture Burundi denounces the phenomenon of bodies being murdered and then abandoned in the wild in order to distort any subsequent investigation and calls on the police and judicial authorities to carry out appropriate investigations to identify the perpetrators of these targeted killings and thus eradicate this phenomenon, which has become recurrent since the National Council for the Defence of Democracy-Forces for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD) took power.

- On Monday 10 October 2022, at around 12 noon, the lifeless body of a young man known as Isaac Manirakiza, aged 31, was found in a small bush located on the Nyambuye hill of the Bukirasazi commune, in Gitega province (central Burundi).

According to witnesses of the macabre discovery, the body of Isaac Manirakiza was lying in a pool of blood and had several wounds which show that he was savagely murdered with a machete by unidentified individuals who also robbed him of all his belongings. Sources close to his family say that Isaac Manirakiza, who was originally from Rugazi hill in Bugenyuzi commune, Karusi province, had announced that he was returning from Tanzania with his bicycle, 8 kg of groundnuts, five hundred thousand Burundian francs (500,000 Fbu) and a mobile phone. No suspects have yet been apprehended.

- On the evening of Monday 10 October 2022, a woman known as Séraphine Ciza, aged 46 and mother of 4 children, was killed with a club to the head on the Sare sub-hill of the Taba hill, in the Ruhororo commune of the Ngozi province (northern Burundi).

SOS Torture Burundi urges serious investigations to determine the motives for this murder and punish the perpetrator severely.



SOS - Torture/Burundi

Monitoring sur les cas de torture, les arrestations arbitraires, les disparitions forcées et les exécutions sommaires au Burundi

SOS-Torture/Burundi was initiated with the aim of informing national and international opinion about the serious human rights violations taking place in Burundi through monitoring reports on torture, arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances, sexual violence and summary executions.

This initiative to inform on the realities of the country followed the carnage of a hundred people killed during the day of 11 December and 12 December 2015 by police and military under the pretext of pursuing rebels who had just attacked military camps on the outskirts of the capital.

The affected areas are said to be contesting the third term of President Nkurunziza, namely Musaga, Mutakura, Cibitoke, Nyakabiga and Jabe, the last two being located in the centre of Bujumbura city.